

"UNFRIENDLY ACT" IS SEEN BY OFFICIALS IN ARABIC'S DESTRUCTION

Preliminary Reports Reveal No Circumstances Extenuating Latest Outrage—Crisis Believed Near Unless Berlin Repudiates Attack

WILSON EXPEDITES INQUIRY

Ambassador Page, at London, Instructed to Cable Summary of Affidavits Obtained by Him—Gerard to Make Inquiries at German Foreign Office.

If, after a full investigation of the facts, the Washington administration is convinced that Germany committed a "deliberately unfriendly" act in the sinking of the steamship Arabic, diplomatic relations between the two governments will immediately be severed.

The circumstances of the sinking of the White Star liner, as they now appear from unofficial reports, are regarded by Washington authorities as constituting an act of that character. Only the establishment of new facts in connection with the attack on the Arabic or a disavowal by Germany of the act of her submarine commander can therefore avert a crisis in the relations between the United States and Germany.

President Wilson will avail himself of every opportunity consistent with the honor and dignity of the United States government to avoid a rupture with Germany, but he will go no further. There will be no backward step from the solemn warning conveyed to Germany in the last note of this government. Information obtained here yesterday sweeps away every vestige of doubt as to the President's resolution to deal firmly and quickly with the situation, once he is convinced that American rights on the high seas have again been deliberately violated by the German government.

WILSON TAKES STEPS TO EXPEDITE JUDGMENT.

Until complete information is at hand, Mr. Wilson and Secretary Lansing will reserve final judgment on the sinking of the White Star liner. The hope of the President and his advisers is that this judgment will not be long deferred. Steps were taken yesterday to expedite matters. Instructions were sent to Ambassador Page at London to cable a summary of the affidavits obtained by him, and a message also was forwarded to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin directing him to inquire of the Berlin foreign office if a report had been received from the commander of the German submarine in regard to the sinking of the Arabic. Mr. Gerard is not to ask for any explanation, but his inquiry will amount to an invitation to Germany to give this government the report of the submarine commander. Also the opportunity will be at hand for Germany to make any statement in her own defense if she desires to do so.

There is no way of telling exactly how long it will be before a reply is received from Ambassador Gerard. There have been suggestions from Berlin already that it might be a week or even two weeks before the German admiralty receives a report from the submarine which sank the Arabic. If Germany desires to play for time, she will have the means at her disposal for doing so, for President Wilson is determined that this government shall do nothing rashly, but shall act only after it has received full information available in regard to the attack upon the Arabic. It is assumed by government officials that Germany will not unnecessarily delay the presentation of her side of the case.

To emphasize the determination of the President to secure all possible information before closing his mind as to the Arabic incident, this statement was issued at the White House. "The Secretary to the President, after a conference with the President this afternoon, made the following statement: "With reference to the sinking of the Arabic, as soon as all the facts are ascertained, our course of action will be determined."

There was evidence of some irritation in official quarters yesterday over the fact that no detailed evidence had yet been received from Ambassador Page. The dispatches received from the Ambassador thus far have contained merely expressions of opinion and his own views in regard to the sinking of the White Star steamship. What the State Department officials are anxious to have are the facts contained in the affidavits of the survivors and of the officers of the vessel. The belief here is that the embassy in London has had considerable difficulty in obtaining this evidence, especially statements of Americans, who scattered after they had landed at Queenstown. Some of this matter already has been mailed by Ambassador Page, but the request forwarded to him yesterday for a detailed summary is expected to give the Washington officials basis for considering the case.

There is no doubt that the President's strongest advisers, and they probably represent his own views, believe that if Germany deliberately torpedoed the Arabic without warning, the time has come to test again the courage of the country and at the same time to demonstrate to doubting foreign statesmen that we are in truth an undivided nation. As the situation in Washington in regard to the Arabic becomes more serious, the feeling is growing that Germany, unless she really desires a break with this government, will offer some excuse for the sinking of the White Star liner. The impression here is that this excuse will take the form of a statement that the commander of the submarine believed that the Arabic was trying to ram him, and that he therefore fired in self defense. It is the feeling here that if Germany offered such a defense the United States would at least be obliged to controvert by evidence the charge that the Arabic was trying to ram the submarine. It would then be up to the United States to determine what evidence it would put in the statement by the German government. It seems certain, though, that in the event of such a defense the United States would not be satisfied with anything less than a disavowal by the German government, an apology and guarantee as to the future.

LEAGUE OF NEUTRAL NATIONS SUGGESTED.

The difficulty about Germany formally disavowing the sinking of the Arabic would probably be that it would involve by inference at least a concession to the United States on the principles involved in the submarine controversy. Suggestions were heard here yesterday of the possibility of the organization of a league of neutral nations for the protection of their rights on the high seas under the leadership of the United States. So far as could be learned no serious consideration was being given to it by this government at present, but some persons believed that the formation of such a league might be advisable in the event of a diplomatic break with Germany. Up to this time the United States

U. S. at Odds With Turkey

Friction Develops Over Action by Porte Against Scorpion.

Mitylene, Aug. 23.—Some friction has occurred between the American Embassy and the Porte with reference to the dispatch boat Scorpion. According to one account, the Turks compelled the vessel to quit its moorings at Toppone and take up a position inside the Golden Horn.

Another version merely states that the American vessel is being kept under close surveillance. The Porte is said to have refused to consent to Ambassador Morgenthau's consequent remonstrances, but tried at the same time to placate him by granting permission, heretofore refused, for the departure of several English and French residents.

Rome, Aug. 23.—The existence of a state of war between Italy and Turkey will not take effect until neutral nations have acknowledged receipt of Italy's notification. This explains why hostilities have not yet opened. The delay, however, is not expected to exceed a couple of days.

Navy Bay, the Turkish Ambassador, has been instructed to arrange with the Spanish Ambassador to assume protection of Turkish interests in Italy. Italian interests in Turkey will be looked after by the American minister at Constantinople, who also succeeds the Italian Ambassador in the protection of Russian interests, which were intrusted to Italy.

\$30,000,000 FOR PLANTERS' RELIEF

Government Takes First Step to Help Move Cotton.

CAUSED BY WAR DECREE

Large Sum to Be Deposited in Southern Banks—No Interest Charged.

The first step on the part of the Federal government to relieve the Southern cotton planters was taken yesterday. Announcement was made at the Treasury Department that Secretary McAdoo will deposit \$30,000,000 in gold in the Federal reserve banks of Atlanta, Dallas and Richmond, if so large a sum is needed, to facilitate the financing of the cotton crop. This step was decided upon as a result of the action of the allies in putting cotton on the contraband list.

The deposits, according to the official announcement, will be "for the purpose of enabling those Federal reserve banks to rediscunt loans made on cotton secured by warehouse receipts by national banks and those State banks that are members of the Federal reserve system."

No interest will be charged on these deposits. It is intended that the deposits shall make it possible for the member banks to charge low rates on loans on warehouse cotton, and indications are that the Federal Reserve Board will fix extremely low rates on rediscouted paper of this character.

No disclosures have been made as to what other steps are under consideration for the relief of the cotton situation. The idea of government officials is that loans at low rates of interest will enable cotton planters to hold back from the market a part of their crop, thus helping to maintain the price.

The President had an important conference yesterday with Mr. W. P. G. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, who has had supervision of all problems arising for the board out of the cotton situation. Many phases of the situation were gone into, and steps which seem to be advisable were discussed. No announcement was made, however, as to what plans the President and Mr. Harding have under consideration.

POCKETS STONES TO DIE.

German, Worried by Arms Trade, Leaps Into River.

New York, Aug. 23.—The second German at the National Conduit and Cable Company, at Hastings on the Hudson, to commit suicide within a week ended his life today by throwing his pockets full of stones and leaping into the river. He was Christopher Derner, a watchman, who replaced Gustave Gross, the first suicide. Both men were grieved because the plant was manufacturing munitions for the allies.

WANTS \$50,000 FOR HER LOVE.

Scribner's Brother-in-law Sues Him for Taking Wife. New York, Aug. 23.—Frederick William Hunter, who was a classmate of John Barrett Kerfoot, author and magazine writer, in Columbia University, and who later became Kerfoot's brother-in-law, today sued him in the Supreme Court for \$50,000 damages. Hunter charges Kerfoot with winning the affections of Mrs. Annie Belleve Haight Hunter and with enticing her from her home. Kerfoot denies the charges.

Faithful Dog Joins Women Of Mystery in Suicide Pact

Covered by Last Remaining Piece of Finery, Sisters Who Ended Life Tragedy by Gas Are Found in Denuded Dwelling.

Reduced to poverty, the last of their salable furniture gone for bread, two sisters lay upon their beds at 538 Eleventh street southeast early Sunday and waited for gas to fill their room. Their bodies were found last night by police. At the foot of the bed was their dead companion a dog.

The women were Maude Burrows, a cripple, and her sister Mollie, afflicted with cancer. Over the bodies on the bare slats was a coverlet of fine workmanship, the last of their finery. In the kitchen on the floor below, two mugs and saucers were uncleared from the last meal. A bone on the floor probably had been left by the dog as its mistress whistled it to the room of death.

In several notes, the sisters said they wanted "to end it all." The two sisters, mysterious to their neighbors, evidently had spent their last money for a gas meter. The neighbors and police say they did it to end the tragedy of their history. The meter was installed Friday. No money was found among the effects of the women, though there were numerous tax receipts, indicating possession of property.

Hobbled Along Dark Streets. Maude, the cripple, was often seen hobbling along the dark streets, her lame left leg dragging pitifully. Mollie, with her affliction, was rarely seen by the neighbors, the last time being Friday afternoon, when she sat on the front steps of the home and fended a strange kitten. Maude was about 49 years of age, her sister five years her senior.

Driven from one house to another, the last more humble than the rest, until they went to 538 Eleventh street—the best in their known career—the two women struggled secretly for their livelihood, the one trying to support her crippled sister, the other lending her aid that the cancerous affliction might be cured. Some two years ago they lived in Twelfth street southeast, a policeman said, recalling the careers of the eccentric sisters. From there they went

WAR STUDENTS TO ASK FOR U. S. PREPAREDNESS

Business Men Prepare Petition—Harvard "Grad" Will Urge College Camp.

Plattsburg, N. Y., Aug. 23.—As the result of what they have observed and what has been drilled into them by army officers, concerning the unpreparedness of the United States for war, the volunteers in the business men's military camp are preparing a petition to Congress take steps to safeguard the country without further delay. The petition will be signed by every one of the 1,200 recruits, and it will demand that Congress make adequate appropriations and adopt the recommendations of the General Staff.

Yale graduates at the encampment took measures toward the organization of a battery at Yale College and passed resolutions urging undergraduates to attend the future camps and calling on other colleges to follow suit. Harvard and Cornell men will meet tomorrow and take similar steps. With a view of interesting the Governors of States in the permanent camp idea, an invitation has been sent to the Governors congress at Boston.

The permanent camp idea, which has caught on all over the country, is being asked for by the military and naval departments. The petition will be signed by every one of the 1,200 recruits, and it will demand that Congress make adequate appropriations and adopt the recommendations of the General Staff.

Yale graduates at the encampment took measures toward the organization of a battery at Yale College and passed resolutions urging undergraduates to attend the future camps and calling on other colleges to follow suit. Harvard and Cornell men will meet tomorrow and take similar steps. With a view of interesting the Governors of States in the permanent camp idea, an invitation has been sent to the Governors congress at Boston.

The permanent camp idea, which has caught on all over the country, is being asked for by the military and naval departments. The petition will be signed by every one of the 1,200 recruits, and it will demand that Congress make adequate appropriations and adopt the recommendations of the General Staff.

BRITISH SHELL ZEEBRUGGE.

Rotterdam, Aug. 23.—Shortly after daybreak the Germans defending the Belgian coast in the neighborhood of Zeebrugge and Knocke were suddenly subjected to a terrible bombardment by a large fleet of British warships.

The fleet, which comprised about thirty large and small vessels, suddenly opened a withering fire on the coast defenses of the German garrison, which for some time has been free from the militant attentions of the allied fleet. The Germans, who recently had been boasting that no fleet now dare face the big German coast defense guns, were caught napping at Zeebrugge, which was the chief object of the attack and suffered enormously from the bombardment. The firing lasted three hours. The big naval guns, it is believed, smashed a large portion of the defense works. The famous mole suffered, in addition to the special works constructed by the Germans.

Passenger Ship Burned; All Safe. New York, Aug. 23.—The passenger steamer L. P. Bradford, bound from Patchogue, Long Island, to Wire Island, was burned to the water's edge today. All on board escaped.

Attend Great Rockyville Fair. Take Baltimore & Ohio trains at 8:30 a. m. and 12:30 noon, returning after 7 p. m.

Finch Grins at "Mine" Excuse

"Absurd," Says Arabic's Captain of Suggestion Offered by Germans.

Liverpool, Aug. 23.—Capt. William Finch, of the Arabic, issued a statement tonight on the German report that there was no proof the Arabic had been sunk by a German submarine and that she must have struck a British mine. He said:

"There is not the slightest doubt that the Arabic was sunk by a torpedo. Neither is there the slightest doubt that it was fired at the Arabic deliberately. It is quite true we never saw any submarine or any periscope, but I saw the white streak made by the passage of the torpedo through the water—a white streak that commenced with air bubbles in the water three hundred yards from us at the point where it was discharged at us.

"There was no mistaking the cause of that white streak, which ended in a torpedo entering the ship and causing the explosion which sank the vessel. I was not alone in seeing it. The chief officer, the second officer and many passengers saw it. No one can doubt for a moment that it was deliberately fired at the Arabic. Those aboard the submarine evidently saw us and got into a position ready to release their torpedo.

"The suggestion that a mine caused the explosion is perfectly absurd."

"HANDS OFF" IS CARRANZA REPLY

Sets Up Contention that Mexico Is Capable of Handling Her Own Affairs.

PEACE NOTE ANSWERED

First Chief Tells Consul in El Paso His Reply Has Gone Forward.

El Paso, Tex., Aug. 23.—Gen. Venustiano Carranza reported today from Vera Cruz to his consul in this city that he has replied to the Pan-American note proposing a peace conference in Mexico.

The answer, though friendly, is reported to set up the contention that Mexico is capable of handling her own affairs. A high official of the department yesterday said that nothing more than a mere polite acknowledgment of the receipt of the note is expected. The State Department understands that Carranza will insist that he be recognized as the head of the Mexican government.

That the peace plans of the administration so far have failed is conceded. The State Department has unofficial information that the other republics signatory to the appeal will not support this government if it undertakes active intervention in Mexico.

Just when Carranza will transfer his headquarters from Vera Cruz to Mexico City is not indicated in dispatches received from the former town. It is expected, however, that he will move on to Mexico City by the middle of the week unless he again changes his program.

Senor Cardozo, the Brazilian minister to Mexico City for many years, who has just retired from that post, had a long conference yesterday with Secretary of State Lansing. It is understood Senor Cardozo gave Mr. Lansing a graphic recital of conditions in Mexico, a recital that probably reflected on the ability of Carranza to rule. Senor Cardozo will further discuss the question with Mr. Lansing today.

If reports from Mexico are to be credited, Gen. Villa and Gen. Obregon are about to clash in an important battle in the neighborhood of Torreón. Advice received here are to the effect that Villa has recently been re-enforced, and that he is prepared to check the northern advance of Gen. Obregon. Obregon wants to pierce the north in which Villa has strong foothold. It is understood that a battle is raging or is imminent near Monterrey.

ITALY GIVES UP PELAGOSA.

Evacuation of Important Island Announced by Vienna.

Vienna, Aug. 23.—Evacuation of Pelagosa Island in the Adriatic Sea by the Italians was officially announced today. The abandonment of the island followed a bombardment by Austrian ships, and aeroplanes, which destroyed the Italian defenses.

The Austrians have delivered several attacks against the Italian position upon Pelagosa in order to prevent the establishment of a naval base there. The island affords a position of great strategical importance for naval operations in the Upper Adriatic.

BREST-LITOVSK NEAR CAPTURE BY TEUTONS; OSSOWIC IS OCCUPIED

London, However, Looks to Russian Success In Gulf of Riga Battle to Stem Advance Of Victorious Germans for Brief Period.

SECOND DEFENSES TOTTERING

Official Dispatches from Russia to Britain Indicate Government Is Trying to Prepare Populace for Further Successes by Invaders in Poland.

London, Aug. 23.—While the naval victory in the Gulf of Riga reported by the Russians, it is believed will remove, for the time being at least, the danger of a German advance on Petrograd, semi-official dispatches received from the Russian capital indicate that the government is preparing the public for the loss of Brest-Litovsk and the entire second line of defenses.

Military experts here are of the opinion that the German plan of campaign has been struck a severe blow in the failure of the operations against Riga, but admit that the situation for the Russians at Brest-Litovsk is precarious.

The fortress is reported to be invested from three sides, and the Germans are striking at the railroads upon which it depends.

The occupation of Ossowic, last remaining Russian stronghold in Poland, reported today by Berlin, gives the Germans control of the railway to Bielsk and Brest-Litovsk, completing their grip on the Polish railways feeding the Warsaw-Petrograd trunk line.

The fortress was evacuated by the Russians when the advance of Prince Leopold's forces threatened their envelopment.

It is believed that all the military stores and guns were removed. Berlin makes no claim to the capture of booty. Aside from the losses inflicted on the German army, the Russian success in the Gulf of Riga, it is believed here, will have a serious strategic effect upon the land operations of Von Hindenburg, which for a time, constituted a menace to Petrograd.

RIGA WILL BE MENACE TO GERMANS.

In fact, competent military experts assert, it may disarrange the entire German plan of campaign. It was upon outflanking movement which Hindenburg was directing his efforts that a great portion of the German strategy hinged, it is stated, and it is believed that the German failure at Riga will prevent the Germans from continuing their attempt, as Riga, as a Russian naval base, constitutes a serious menace in Hindenburg's rear.

Not having met with success against Riga and, it is believed, the Germans brought up a number of the major units of their fleet, intending to effect their object by sea.

The repulse of this attempt, as reported by Petrograd, will prevent the Germans from pushing farther into Russian territory while their line of communication is exposed. First, fresh efforts to reduce Riga are expected soon, but dispatches from Petrograd say that the Russians are confident they will be able to hold their ground.

Von Hindenburg, who had pressed his advance to Jacobstadt and other points on the Dvina, is not expected to make any further attempts to advance until the fate of Riga is decided. He has met with severe opposition ever since approaching the Dvina line.

If this operation had succeeded the enemy would have been able to have struck at the rear of the Russian troops in the Riga district.

Evidently in expectation of results of the naval operations they recently has been a pause in German activity in the direction of the Dvina line, but the attack east of Kovno is being pressed with great energy.

The immediate aim of the Germans here is believed to be the railway junction at Landvarovo, where the Vilna-Grodno line is joined by that from Kovno.

Entire Batteries Swept Away. From the fire of the forts, and entire batteries were swept away by the blast of the Russian projectiles. Altogether the German losses are said to have exceeded those of the Russians.

A great deal of damage was done to Kovno itself. One big shell completely wrecked the facade of the Cathedral. While the attack was in progress thirty German aeroplanes and three dirigibles circled continually above the town, dropping bombs.

SURVIVES 7 WEDDINGS ONLY TO LAND IN JAIL

Four of His Wives to Appear Against Russian with Fondness for Bank Accounts.

Philadelphia, Aug. 23.—Since he arrived in this country from Russia ten years ago, Samuel Ravidoff, thirty-three, has married seven women, all of whom are living, according to the police here. Ravidoff is today in a city hall, pending a hearing at which four of the women will appear against him. He is said to have conducted his matrimonial campaigns in four cities.

Besides the four wives here, the police say Ravidoff has one in each of the cities of New York, Trenton, N. J., and Scranton, Pa. Detective Miller, who had been trailing Ravidoff two years, said the Russian made love to women who had bank accounts, and after they were married would open a small barber shop. Then, according to Miller, he would leave his wife, carrying off her money.

American Boy on Arabic. Peter Dugal, of Livermore, Minn., an 18-year-old lad, who had fought in the trenches with a British regiment, was among the Arabic survivors, the State Department announced yesterday. The Department, at the request of Dugal's mother, had effected his discharge from the British army.

AMERICAN RED CROSS QUILTS EUROPE OCT. 1

For Financial Reasons Entire Personnel to Be Withdrawn—Will Continue Supply Shipments

London, Aug. 23.—The American Red Cross Society has decided, for financial reasons, to withdraw its units from Europe on October 1. Maj. Patterson, chief of the American Red Cross Bureau, has notified the various nations that the entire hospital personnel is to be withdrawn from Europe. His letter continues:

"The American Red Cross feels unable to have given the assistance of its personnel for one year, which will be done by October 1, it can now render better service by continuing simply to furnish surgical, hospital and medical supplies to the belligerent nations.

"It will do this probably for the duration of the war, thus saving the expense of keeping the personnel in Europe."

Oldest Baltimore Woman Dies. Baltimore, Md., Aug. 23.—The oldest woman in Baltimore, Mrs. Hester Fieldman, an inmate of the Hebrew Home for Aged Incurables, died today at the age of 112. She was the mother of ten and the great-grandmother of fifteen.